DC COMICS™

THE NEW 52!

I, VAMPIRE™

"DEFT CHARACTER WRITING, INCREDIBLY VISCERAL VISUALS, AND LOTS AND LOTS OF BLOOD."
— IGN

VOLUME 1
TAINTED LOVE

JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV ANDREA SORRENTINO

I, VAMPIRE

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I, VAMPIRE VOLUME 1: TAINTED LOVE

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cover art by
JENNY FRISON

BOSTON.

"SO THAT'S IT?"

"YES."

"WE'RE DONE? ALL THIS TIME, AND YOU JUST... WHAT? YOU WALK OUT? YOU WALK AWAY?

"YOU BREAK ME AND THEN YOU, WHAT? YOU MOVE ON?"

"NO. YOU DON'T GET TO DO THIS. YOU DON'T GET TO BLAME ME FOR WHAT *YOU* DID.

"I WAS FINE WITH HOW THINGS WERE--"

"YEAH. FINE. IT WAS DELIGHTFUL."

"WE WERE SAFE. WE HAVE EACH OTHER. ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?"

"WE ARE SUPPOSED TO RULE THE WORLD, ANDREW, NOT HIDE IN THE SHADOWS LIKE VERMIN."

NOOOOOOOOOOOO!

I'M SORRY. NORMALLY, I'D LOCK YOU AWAY SOMEWHERE UNTIL I COULD FIND YOUR SIRE.

BUT, WELL, Y'KNOW...

HISSSSSSS!

YEAH. EXACTLY.

MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL.

"YOU CAN COME WITH."

"I CAN'T DO THAT, MARY. YOU KNOW THAT."

DO YOU REMEMBER THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR?

OF COURSE.

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT THEY FOUGHT FOR?

THIS IS NOT THAT, MARY.

WHY? WHY NOT? WE'VE BEEN OPPRESSED.

I'M MARTIN LUTHER KING AND MALCOLM X AND BEN FRANKLIN ALL IN ONE.

YOU KILL PEOPLE.

I KILL LIVESTOCK.

WE CAN ALL COEXIST.

BUT IF YOU DO THIS...

THEY'LL WIPE US ALL OUT.

NOT TONIGHT, ANDREW. LET'S JUST...NOT.

MARY, WHATEVER YOU'RE PLANNING--

CATCH ME.

WHAT?

CATCH ME!

I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR FOUR HUNDRED YEARS, AND I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MOST OF THE TIME.

TELL ME ABOUT IT.

"FIGHT WITH US, ANDREW. YOU'RE STRONGER THAN ANYONE, SMARTER. HELL, TOGETHER WE'D BE UNSTOPPABLE."

"I'M NOT LIKE YOU, MARY. I NEVER WILL BE."

"OH. WHATEVER."

"THE HUNGER DOESN'T DRIVE ME, AND THE DEMONS THAT TOUCHED YOU NEVER CAME FOR ME."

"YOU'VE GOT TO JUST WONDER."

"WONDER WHAT THEY TASTE LIKE."

"MARY, WHAT I DID TO YOU WAS WRONG. I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT TRY TO UNDO I--"

"BUT I'M HAPPY, ANDREW. DON'T YOU GET THAT?"

"HAPPY? MARY, YOU'RE EVIL."

WH-WHERE AM I?

YOU'RE...

THERE WAS AN ATTACK--

YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT.

GOD, YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HER.

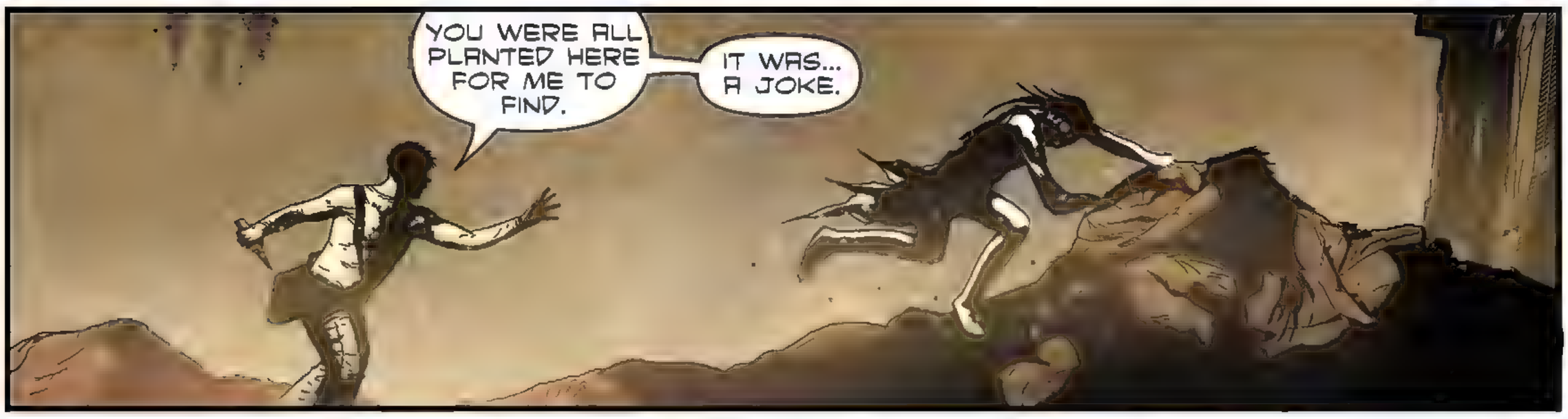
BUT HOW--

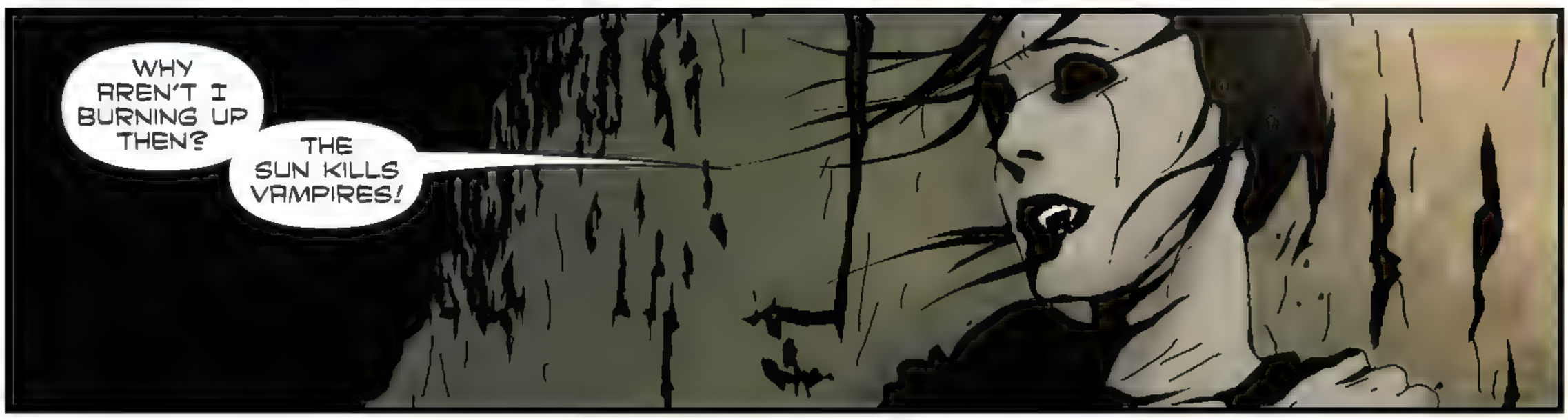
OH GOD...

MY SKIN IS BURNING...

YOU'VE BEEN BITTEN. YOU'RE A VAMPIRE NOW.
I'M SO SORRY.

WHOA! HOLD ON!
VAMPIRE? I'M NOT--I CAN'T BE--
THERE'S NO SUCH--
THERE ARE. TRUST ME, THERE ARE, AND YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.


YOU WERE ALL PLANTED HERE FOR ME TO FIND.
IT WAS... A JOKE.


WHY AREN'T I BURNING UP THEN?
THE SUN KILLS VAMPIRES!

THE SUN WEAKENS US, CANCELS OUT MOST OF OUR POWERS, BUT IT DOESN'T KILL US.
PLEASE, JUST LIE STILL, THIS'LL BE QUICK.

GO TO HELL!

THIS IS WHY I HAVE TO PUT YOU DOWN. ALL OF YOU.

THIS IS WHY I WALK THE EARTH.

I'VE HAD FOUR CENTURIES TO LEARN HOW TO KILL OUR KIND.

"EVIL? THAT'S HOW YOU SEE ME?"

WHEN YOU OPENED YOUR EYES FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU STARTED SCREAMING ABOUT FEASTING ON BLOOD AND TAKING OVER THE WORLD.

THAT'S PRETTY EVIL, NO?

HEH. THINGS WERE MUCH SIMPLER THEN.

SO MUCH EASIER TO PILLAGE AND CONQUER.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, MARY.

YOU CAN KEEP THEM ALL AT BAY.

YOU CAN CONVINCE THEM THAT THIS WILL BE THEIR DEATH.

AND SITTING AROUND COUNTING DAYS, DRINKING COW'S BLOOD, AND WORKING NIGHT JOBS *ISN'T* DEATH?

I'M DONE TALKING ABOUT THIS

AND YOU THINK YOU AND YOUR "ARMY" STAND A CHANCE AGAINST SUPERMAN AND A HALF-DOZEN GREEN LANTERNS AND WONDER WOMAN AND—

SHHH

I'M HUNTING WABBITS.

SIGH

GOD, YOU'RE MAGNIFICENT.

I KNOW.

SO YOU GET TO BE MY EXECUTIONER?

I WAKE UP IN A STRANGE PLACE, YOU TELL ME I'M EVIL, AND THEN YOU, WHAT? YOU CUT OFF MY HEAD?

I'M SORRY

HAHA.

HAHAHA HAHAHA.

HAHAHA HAHAHAHAHAHA HAHAHAHAHAHA HAHAHAHAHAHA HAHAHA

WHAT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

MOMMY SAID YOU WERE STUPID, BUT WE DIDN'T BELIEVE HER!

"WE"?

THEY'RE ALL STANDING BEHIND ME, AREN'T THEY?

YEPPER.

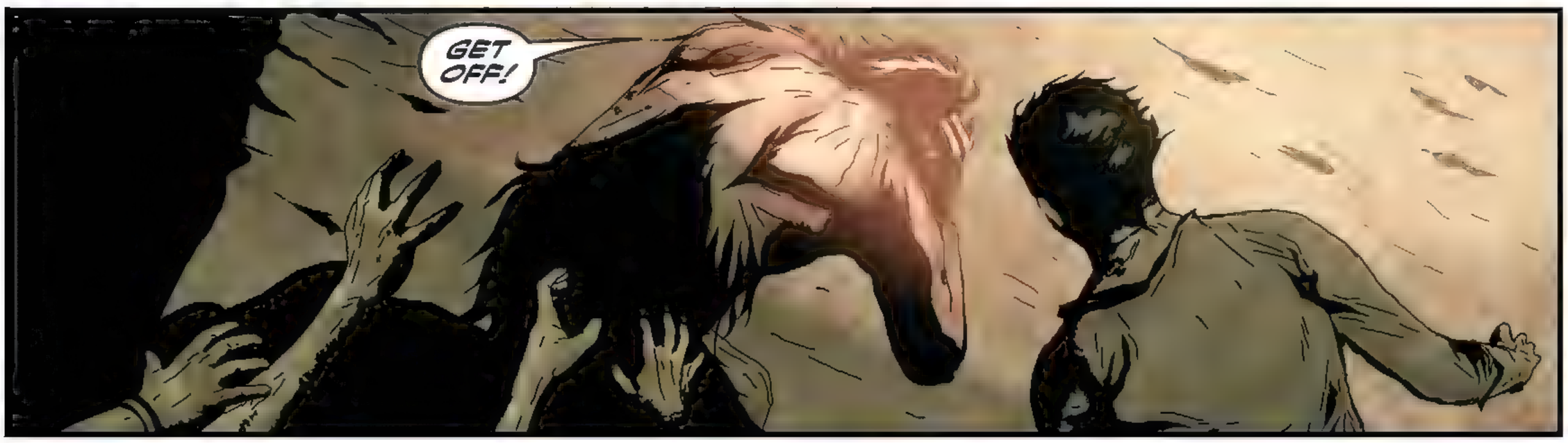
HOW...? EVERY ONE OF YOU IS A FULL BLOOD...

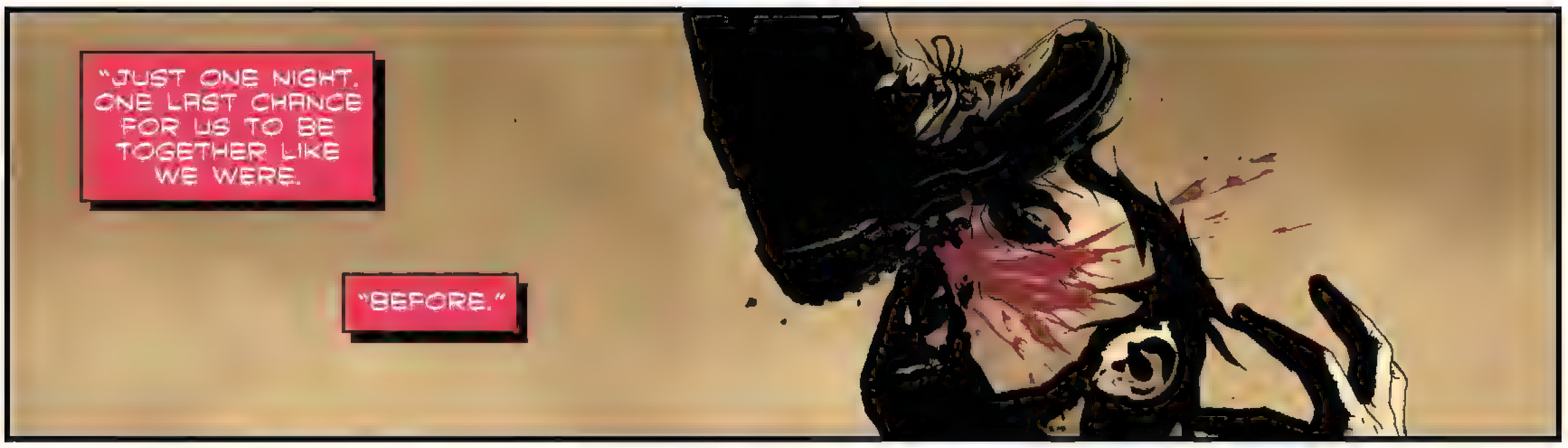
THAT MUST'VE TAKEN... MONTHS.

WHILE YOU SLEPT, WE WORKED.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.

SHE SAID YOU'D SAY THAT.


GET OFF!


"JUST ONE NIGHT. ONE LAST CHANCE FOR US TO BE TOGETHER LIKE WE WERE.
"BEFORE."

"WE CAN'T EVER GO BACK, MARY. NOT UNTIL I FIND A WAY TO CURE YOU--"

"CURE ME OF WHAT?!?"

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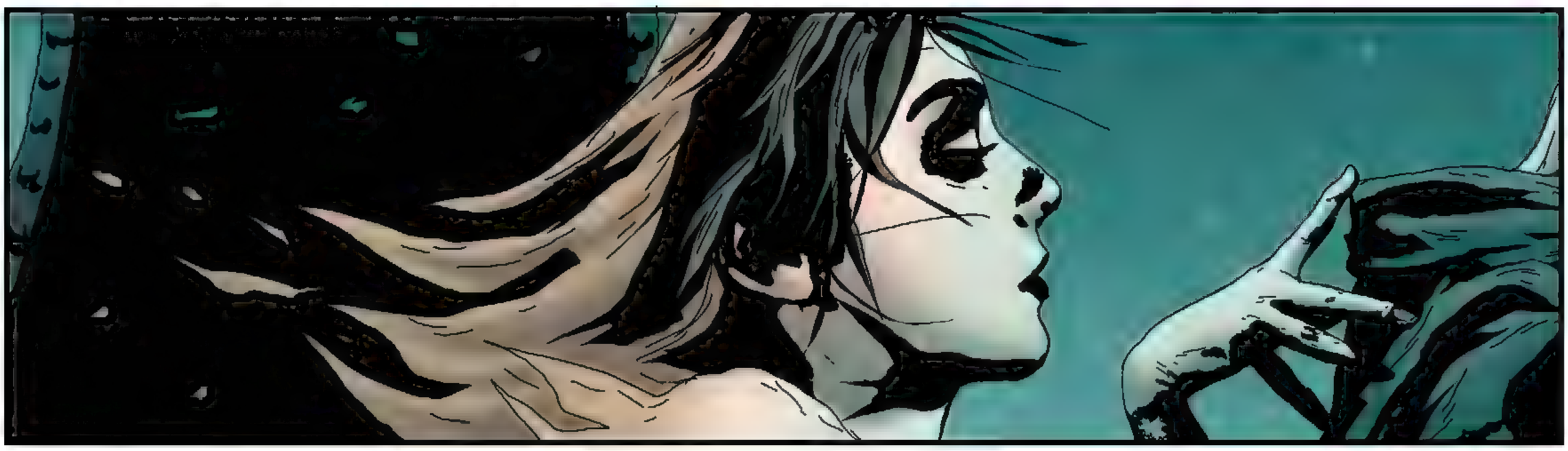
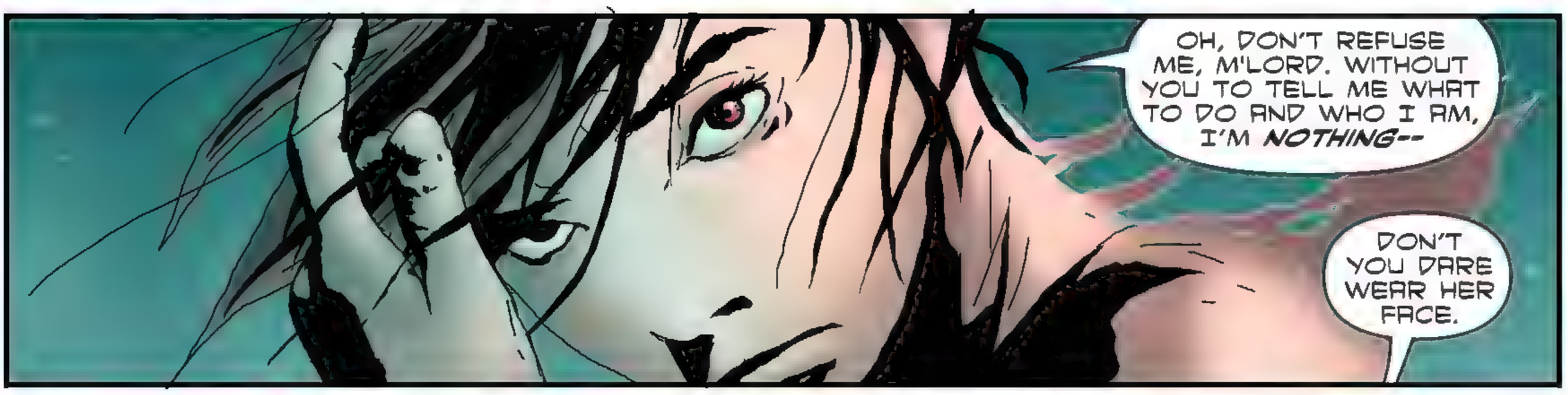
OF BEING ALIVE?
OF BEING POWERFUL?
DO YOU WANT YOUR SWEET LITTLE DOCILE MARY BACK?



TELL ME, M'LORD, WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?
SHOULD I SLOP THE LATRINE AND THEN LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME?
OR PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO BEAT ME FOR MY SLOPPINESS.
STOP IT.

PERHAPS M'LORD WANTS TO SELL ME FOR SOME PIGS AND A FAMILY OF GAME HENS.
TURN BACK, MARY.


OH, DON'T REFUSE ME, M'LORD. WITHOUT YOU TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO AND WHO I AM, I'M NOTHING--
DON'T YOU DARE WEAR HER FACE.

MY FACE.

MY FACE.

MY FACE.

STOP THIS.

THIS IS WHO I ALWAYS WAS.

YOU SET ME FREE! YOU SHOWED ME THAT HOW I FELT WAS WHO I AM.

AND YOU'VE SPENT FOUR HUNDRED YEARS TRYING TO TAKE THAT AWAY FROM ME.

"WE DESERVE TO BE FREE, ANDREW. OUR KIND HAS LIVED IN FEAR AND OPPRESSION—"

"YOU'VE SAID THIS BEFORE"

DOWNTOWN CR

"FINE"

OH GOD, WHAT TIME IS IT? WHAT HAVE I *DONE?*

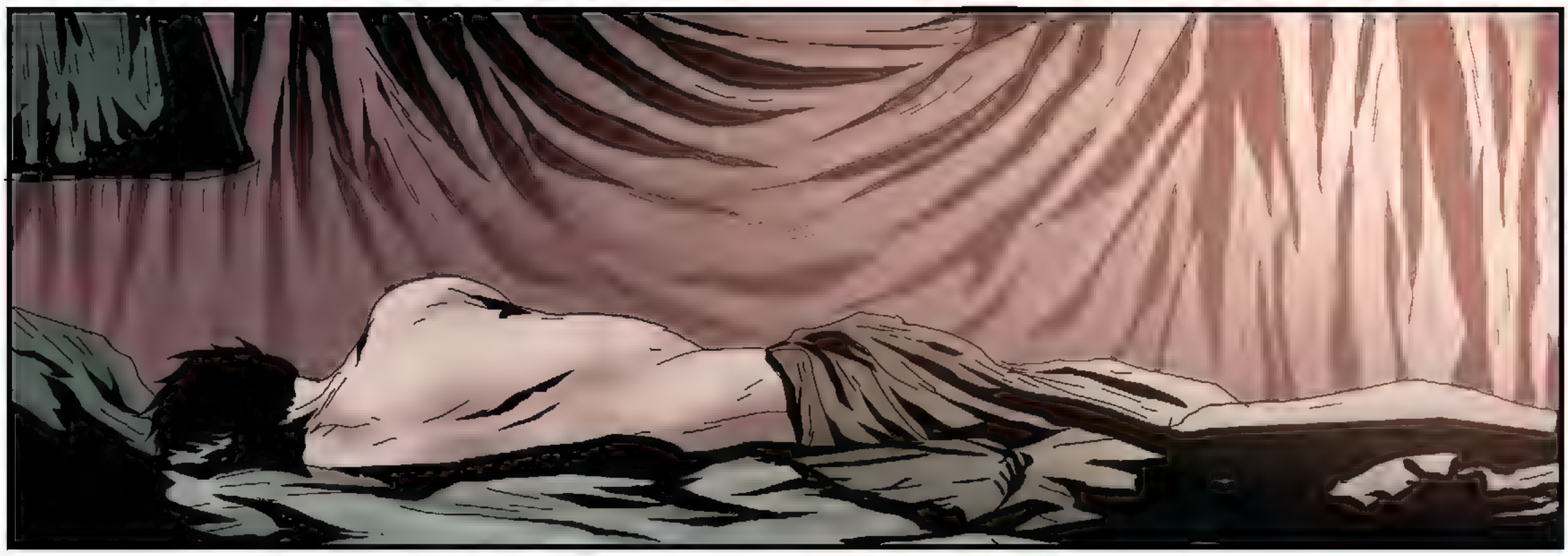
"CAN WE JUST GO TO BED? JUST ONCE MORE. ONE LAST TIME"

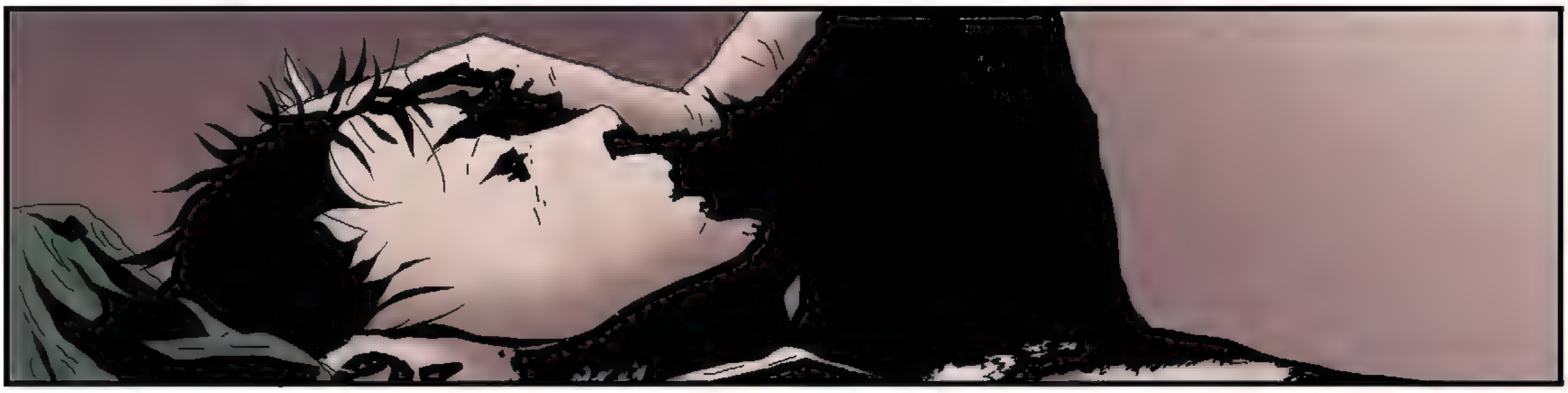
NO. NO. NO. *NO.*

"CAN WE SAY GOODBYE, AND THEN IT'S DONE? FOREVER?"

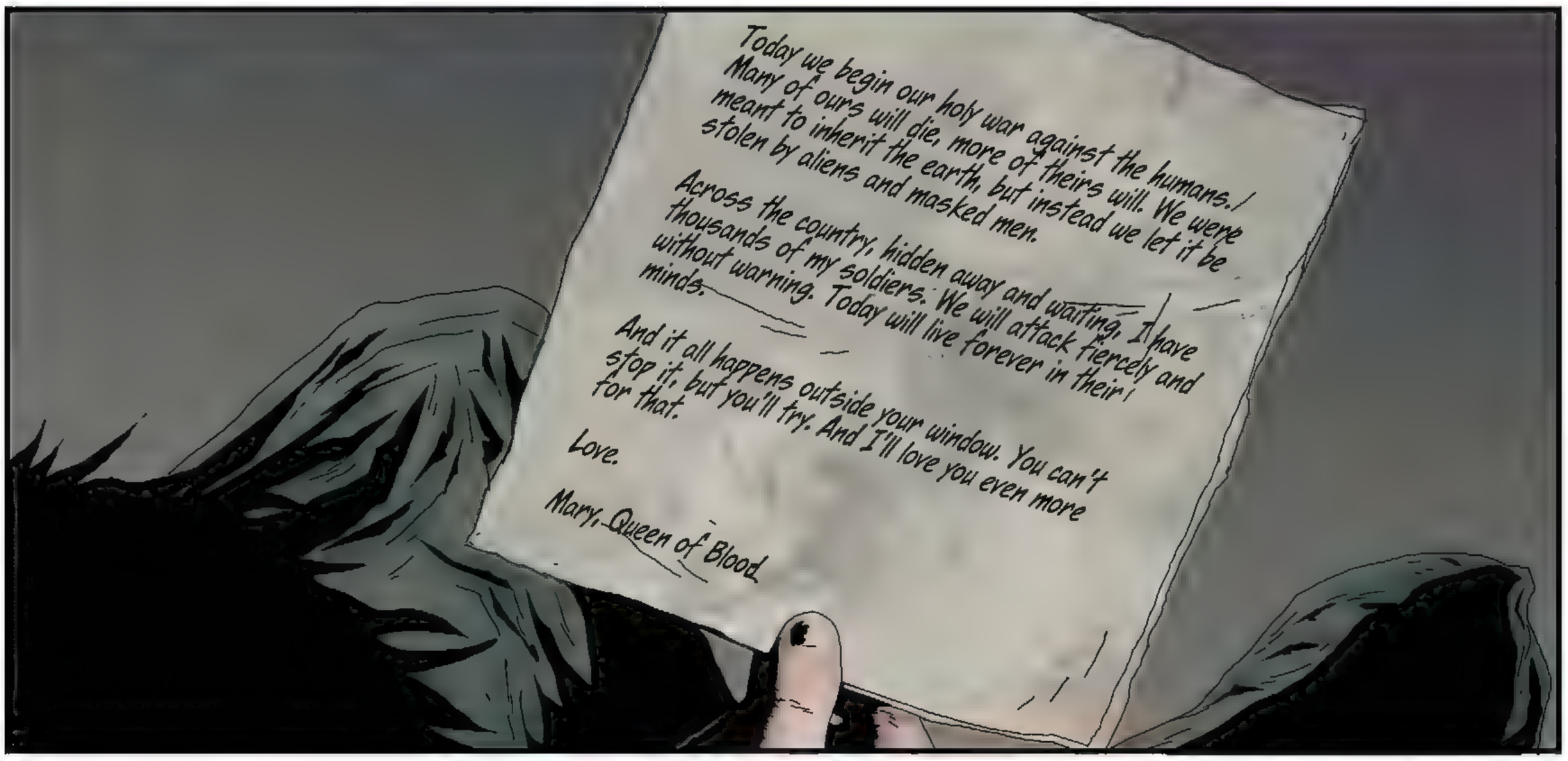
PLEASE. THEY'RE JUST INNOCENT PEOPLE!

I LOVE YOU ANDREW AND I'M SORRY





ANARCHY


Today we begin our holy war against the humans./
Many of ours will die, more of theirs will. We were
meant to inherit the earth, but instead we let it be
stolen by aliens and masked men.
Across the country, hidden away and waiting, I have
thousands of my soldiers. We will attack fiercely and
without warning. Today will live forever in their
minds.
And it all happens outside your window. You can't
stop it, but you'll try. And I'll love you even more
for that.
Love.
Mary, Queen of Blood

"ALL WAR IS DECEPTION."
- SUN TZU

"TAKE AWAY LOVE AND EARTH IS A TOMB."
- ROBERT BROWNING

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DO NOT
DISTURB

cover art by
JENNY FRISON

FORTY-FIVE MINUTES AGO.

I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH FROM MY LIFE BEFORE

I MEAN I DO I REMEMBER THE BOWING AND THE SCRAPING AND THE HOPING HE WOULD NOTICE ME AND THEN THE MOMENT HE DID—

I REMEMBER THE FEELING COMING OVER ME

HE SAID IT WAS A DEMON TAKING HOLD

BUT IT FELT LIKE A LEASH BEING TAKEN OFF

IT FELT LIKE MY LUNGS FILLING WITH AIR FOR THE FIRST TIME

I NEVER LOOKED BACK

UNTIL NOW

BUT ENOUGH WITH THE SELF-SEARCHING.

TODAY IS A BIG DAY.

AND WE START EACH DAY RIGHT.

WITH A VERY.

VERY...

HEALTHY BREAKFAST.

MY NAME WAS MARY SEWARD.

NOW THEY CALL ME MARY, QUEEN OF BLOOD.

AND IT'S AMAZING TO BE ME.

SHOWTIME.

TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES AGO.

QUIET! QUIET!

SHUT YOUR MOUTHS!

QUIET, CHILDREN.

YOUR BIG BROTHER WANTS TO SPEAK.

I...UH... THANK YOU, MA'AM.

WE...MY FRIENDS, WE ARE THE CHOSEN!

OUR KIND HAS BEEN HELD DOWN. KEPT... SUBSERVIENT.

WOULD THAT ALL OF OUR BROTHERS WERE HERE.

WOULD THAT EVERY ONE OF US STOOD UP TO OUR OPPRESSORS AND FOUGHT BACK.

DOWNTOWN CR

WE FACE AN ENEMY SO PERVASIVE--

HA!

SWEET BOY. KIND BOY.

FOOLISH BOY.

THERE IS NO ENEMY.

HUMANITY IS NO MORE A THREAT THAN AN ANT IS TO AN ELEPHANT.

YOU WILL WALK UP THERE, AND YES, SOME OF YOU MAY DIE. BUT YOU DIE FOR YOUR PEOPLE.

YOU GIVE YOUR LIFESBLOOD SO THAT TEN MORE GENERATIONS CAN LIVE.

AS THE MORNING SUN BURNS AT YOUR SKIN, YOU WILL NOT DIE, NO.

IF BENNETT AND HIS FRIENDS COME WITH AXE AND STAKE IN HAND, YOU WILL NOT TURN TO DUST AND BE FORGOTTEN, NO.

INSTEAD, YOU WILL LIVE FOREVER.

YOU ARE MARTYRS.

WE ARE THE FUTURE.

THEY ARE NOTHING BUT FOOD!

NOW LET'S GO MAKE HISTORY.

TWENTY MINUTES AGO.

NO PARKING

WE CHOSE SLAVERY. WE CHOSE TO HIDE LIKE COWARDS RATHER THAN TAKE WHAT IS OURS.

I DO NOT FEAR WHAT I AM.

I DO NOT FEAR DEATH.

AND I SURE AS HELL DO NOT FEAR AN EARTH WITHOUT *THEM* ON IT.

FIVE MINUTES AGO.

NO PARKING

I HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE, AND IT IS AN AMAZING WORLD WHERE THE RIVERS RUN RED WITH BLOOD AND THE SUN HAS BEEN BLOTTED OUT.

BUT I DREAM OF A LIFE WHERE THE ONE BEING ON EARTH WHO GIVES ME A FEELING OTHER THAN HUNGER OR HATRED WANTS NOTHING MORE THAN TO BE BY MY SIDE.

NOW.

DIE!

WATCHING HIM FIGHT GOD

WATCHING HIM KI...

SUCH PASSION

TO SEE MY BELOVED ANDREW LET THE BEAST OUT OF ITS CAGE

HE MADE ME WHAT I AM. AND YET HE'S SO SCARED TO USE THAT POWER

I'D BE ...VING IF I SAID I DIDN'T CHOOSE TO BE HERE JUST TO WATCH HIM ONE LAST TIME

ONE LAST TIME BEFORE I CUT OFF HIS HEAD

WHY? WHY WON'T YOU JOIN US?

WE'VE DONE THIS BEFORE, MARY.

I WILL NOT LET INNOCENTS DIE.

TOO LATE, HANDSOME.

HELLO LOVER

END THIS, MARY.

COME MAKE ME

I GOT HIM!

WHAT THE--?

GAH!

NOOO--

MARY!

YOU RUN FROM ME?

WHAT'S WRONG? TOO SCARED TO FIGHT?!

FACE ME YOURSELF!

NO.

I'M SORRY.

I CAN'T.

I'M *VERY* LATE.

AND *THIS* IS *VERY* UPSETTING.

NO. I'M SORRY, ANDREW.

IT HURTS ME TO SAY IT, BUT THIS IS WHERE I SAY GOODBYE.

UNLESS...

HOLD HIM DOWN.

PLEASE, ANDREW. WE'RE TOO BIG TO BE STOPPED.

THIS...THIS IS NOT SOME ERSATZ CULT...SELLING DRUGS AND PLAYING GAMES.

WE ARE NOT MONSTERS. WE'RE... FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

AND I SUPPOSE YOU LIBERATED THOSE PEOPLE THERE?

IS THAT HOW CIVILIZED BEINGS ACT?

NO. THEY HAVE HOLOCAUSTS AND CRUSADES AND WARS AND BOMBINGS INSTEAD.

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR OUR SURVIVAL.

THEY FIGHT BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO.

I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULDN'T GIVE YOU ANOTHER CHANCE.

THAT THIS WAS IT.

SO...

I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE, MARY.

OKAY.

FINE.

...

KILL HIM.

THEY WON'T OF COURSE

THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO

BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT.

THAT'S NEVER THE POINT.

THE POINT IS TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T FORGET.

THE THREE HUNDRED PEOPLE WE TOOK.

THE HUMILIATION HE FELT.

THE HOOK ON MY FACE

RIGHT NOW, HE'S KILLING THEM

NOT ALL. NO. ENOUGH WILL SURVIVE THAT WORD WILL SPREAD.

OUR PEOPLE WILL KNOW HIM NOT JUST AS THE COWARD WE KNOW HE IS BUT AS THE TRAITOR HE ACTUALLY HAS BEEN.

SOON, EVERY VAMPIRE ON EARTH WILL BE FIGHTING FOR THE CHANCE TO KILL HIM

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF A NEW ERA

TODAY IS THE END OF DECADES OF HIDING IN TERROR STRUGGLING TO FIND OUR PLACE

TODAY IS THE GREATEST DAY IN THE WORLD

MY NAME IS MARY, QUEEN OF BLOOD.

AND AS OF TODAY, I'LL BE THE RULER OF THE ENTIRE FILTHY PLANET.

WHAT'D YOU DO THIS MORNING?

cover art by
JENNY FRISON

DOWNTOWN CROSSING TRAIN STATION, BOSTON.

MILLIONS OF LIVES HAVE BEEN LOST TO THEM THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

INNOCENTS IN A WAR THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT.

PLY, SMITH, AND COHEN STOCK BROKERS, STAR CITY.

BUT ASIDE FROM A STRAY HERE AND THERE, THAT STOPPED FIVE YEARS AGO.

THERE WAS PEACE.

TASTE OF HEAVEN DONUT SHOP, COAST CITY.

THE THING THAT EVERYONE KNOWS TO BE TRUE AND YET SECRETLY HOPES IS A LIE...

PEACE IS FLEETING.

APOLLO'S LANDING NIGHTCLUB, LOS ANGELES.

THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL WILL CONFLICT WITH THE NEEDS OF THE MANY--

AND THE NEEDS OF THE MINORITY WILL ATTACK THE NEEDS OF THE MAJORITY--

AND THEN THERE WILL BE THIS.

300+ Missing..!

THERE WILL BE DEATH AND BLOOD, INNOCENTS LOST, LIVES STOLEN.

ght of Terror - Night of T

BUT THROUGH IT ALL, THERE IS HOPE.

Mass Murders in Bos

liens Suspected? - Aliens Suspecte

Emma Kite - Boston

BECAUSE THERE ARE HEROES.

Live - Coast City

Donut Shop Murder

56 missing in Los Angeles

Downtown Boston Deserted

Terrorism? behind a

The Point:
where is the Justice League?

ECOND ATTACK in Star City!

cted Stock Traders Missing - Respe

Justice League Investigate

Desert Subway

BUT THE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW THAT THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN SAVE THEM IS ALSO THE REASON THIS ALL BEGAN.

MY NAME IS PROFESSOR JOHN TROUGHTON, AND I THANK GOD EVERY DAY FOR ANDREW BENNETT.

okers Disappeared - Broke

the unveiled:
Government W

Murders by Joseph Santh

uts Shop Attacked - Donu

Live - Star City
Aliens may be the Answ

Gone without a trace

Mystery in Coast City

120 missing in Star Cit

Live - Los Angeles Missing 248

Boston Missing?

our Attacks in a Row

stice League Investigating -

Investigate on Mysteri
Justice League of

Andy Mayem

sing peoples in Coast

Missing Son?

Night of Terror in Boston, Dow

HE EXPLAINED THINGS TO ME THAT I NEVER UNDERSTOOD.

THAT IT'S NOT LIKE IN THE MOVIES.

THAT THEY AREN'T ALL TURNED INTO SOULLESS MONSTERS.

IN FACT, HE'D ONLY EVER SEEN THAT REALLY HAPPEN ONCE.

BOSTON
SEWER

THE HUNGER IS VERY REAL.

BUT JUST LIKE ANY URGE, HE BELIEVES IT CAN BE SUPPRESSED.

VAMPIRES ARE JUST LIKE US. MOST OF THEM ARE FOLLOWERS, RATHER THAN LEADERS.

ANDREW!

HELP ME...

IN THE NEAR THIRTY-FIVE YEARS I'VE KNOWN HIM, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANDREW HURT. NOT LIKE THIS.

NO MATTER WHAT HE'S FACED WITH, HE'S ALWAYS WON.

I PRAY THAT WILL ALWAYS BE THE CASE.

BUCHANAN ARMS APARTMENTS, SAN FRANCISCO, 1979.

HOW MANY HAVE YOU MASSACRED?

HUNDREDS! THEY COME TO US LIKE FLIES TO HONEY!

THAT FIRST NIGHT I MET HIM, HE SEEMED LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A VICTORIAN NOVEL...

BUT HE WAS SO MUCH MORE EVEN THEN.

YOU PROMISE THEM SEX AND DRUGS, AND INSTEAD YOU FEED ON THEM!

NO! WE EAT THEM AFTER.

THE HIGH IS AMAZING!

COME TO ME!

BACK! BACK, I SAY!

NOW HUSH, I HATE IT WHEN MY FOOD TALKS TOO MUCH.

GET YOUR DAMN HANDS OFF HIM.

OH, THANK GOD...
IT'S GRANDDAD! GRANDDAD'S HERE!
OH CRAP.
MARY TOLD YOU HOW MUCH I HATE BEING CALLED THAT, DIDN'T SHE?

I NEVER SAW ANYTHING MOVE THE WAY HE DID...

LIKE A WILD ANIMAL, AND YET WITH SUCH PRECISION.

AS EACH VAMPIRE DIED, THEY LOOKED AT HIM WITH EQUAL PARTS LUST AND DISGUST.

HE WAS AMAZING.

YOU THINK WE'RE ALL THERE IS? *WE ARE LEGION!*

ACTUALLY, I JUST STAKED EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE.

SO, YOU KNOW, NOT SO LEGION.

OH.

CRAP.

I NEVER THOUGHT A VAMPIRE WOULD BE MY BEST FRIEND.

BUT I'M DAMN LUCKY THAT HE IS.

NOW

GASP!

ANDREW, YOU'RE OKAY, YOU'RE HOME.

WE HAVE TO GO.

GO WHERE?

TO STOP THEM!

ALL OF THEM?

HOW EXACTLY ARE YOU AND I GOING TO DO THAT?

THERE'S A FEW HUNDRED, TOPS, AND THE REST THEY TOOK THIS MORNING WON'T BE TURNED YET.

NOT ENTIRELY.

WE CAN SAVE THEM.

YOU CAN BARELY STAND UP, ANDREW.

JOHN, I DON'T HAVE TIME--

FOUR ATTACKS LINKED!

BOSTON, LOS Angeles, STAR CITY and SOAS

DONUT SHOP MURDERS

AND IT'S NOT A FEW HUNDRED.

OH GOD...FOUR CITIES? HOW?

YOU TELL ME.

MARY PLAYED US.

ME.

SHE'S BEEN BUILDING AN ARMY RIGHT UNDERNEATH MY NOSE.

BUT HOW? YOU HAVE A PSYCHIC CONNECTION WITH YOUR PROGENY, NO?

I ALWAYS THOUGHT SO, YEAH.

BUT THERE WERE AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED OF THEM OUT THERE THIS MORNING, PLUS THE OTHER CITIES.

AND YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND THEM?

I FELT ENOUGH OF THEIR ESSENCE TO TRACK THEM.

YOU COMING OR WHAT?

I SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE LEARNING TO HATE VAMPIRES.

WHAT THEY STAND FOR, WHAT THEY DO, HOW THEY LIVE.

BUT SOMEHOW, THIS MAN RADIATES... GOOD.

WHEN I MET HIM, I KNEW THAT I'D FIGHT AT HIS SIDE TILL THE DAY I DIED.

HOLD ON.

HERE.

I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT WHAT I WAS GIVING UP, BECAUSE I KNEW WHAT HE SACRIFICED TO BECOME WHAT HE IS.

BE CAREFUL AND KEEP QUIET.

I'VE LEARNED NEVER TO EVEN SAY HER NAME.

HE'S SO FILLED WITH REGRET AND HATRED...

WORST OF ALL, LOVE.

TRUE, UNDYING LOVE.

WHEN THEY WERE LAYING THIS LINE, THEY MADE A MISTAKE.

A COUPLE OF THE STATIONS WERE OFF THE TRACK, BUT THEY'D ALREADY BEEN BUILT--

PITHCOO!

DIE, MONSTER!

WHAT THE--

DIE, BEAST! DIE!

GET DOWN!

STOP THIS! I'M NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

YEAH?

GAH!

THEN WHAT'S WITH THE HOLY WATER ALLERGY?

SO, LOOK, GREAT GETTING TO KNOW YOU AND EVERYTHING, BUT TIME TO SAY BYE-BYE.

WE DON'T NEED TO DO THAT, DEAR.

DON'T TOUCH ME!

STOP. PLEASE.

HE'S A VAMPIRE!

AND APPARENTLY A WEREWOLF.

AND MADE OF STEAM...

MY HEAD FEELS FUNNY...

I NEED YOU TO CALM DOWN.

SEE WITH YOUR HEART, NOT WITH YOUR EYES, YES?

I...

YOU CAN FEEL THAT I'M DIFFERENT.

YES?

Y...YES.

OKAY, NOW TELL ME HOW YOU FOUND THIS PLACE.

I TRACKED SOME VAMPIRES.

BUT ONCE I GOT IN HERE, THEY BOLTED.

I FIGURED I'D WAIT THEM OUT.

AWFULLY YOUNG FOR THIS, AREN'T YOU?

DON'T BE A JERK, ANDREW.

MY MOM TAUGHT ME.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR THE ONE THAT KILLED MY DAD.

YOU'RE BETTER THAN I EVER WAS.

I DOUBT THAT.

THE HANDSOME OLD GENTLEMAN OVER THERE ONCE KILLED TWELVE VAMPIRES WITHOUT A STAKE OR AN AXE.

WELL, I RIGGED SOMETHING UP... SORT OF A LAWN SPRINKLER OF HOLY WATER.

IT WAS... PRETTY COOL.

SO ARE YOU GUYS, LIKE... TOGETHER?

WE WORK TOGETHER, YES.

HEH.

HM. I DON'T GET IT.

WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY ALL GOING?

HM.

THIS LEADS ALL THE WAY BACK TO SOUTH STATION.

I'D ASSUME SO, YES.

WELL, NICE OF HER TO LEAVE ME A NOTE.

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.

MISS--

MY NAME IS TIG.

TIG?

YEAH. TIG. GOT A PROBLEM?

NO. NOT AT ALL.

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU KEEP A FLASHLIGHT ON YOU, DO YOU?

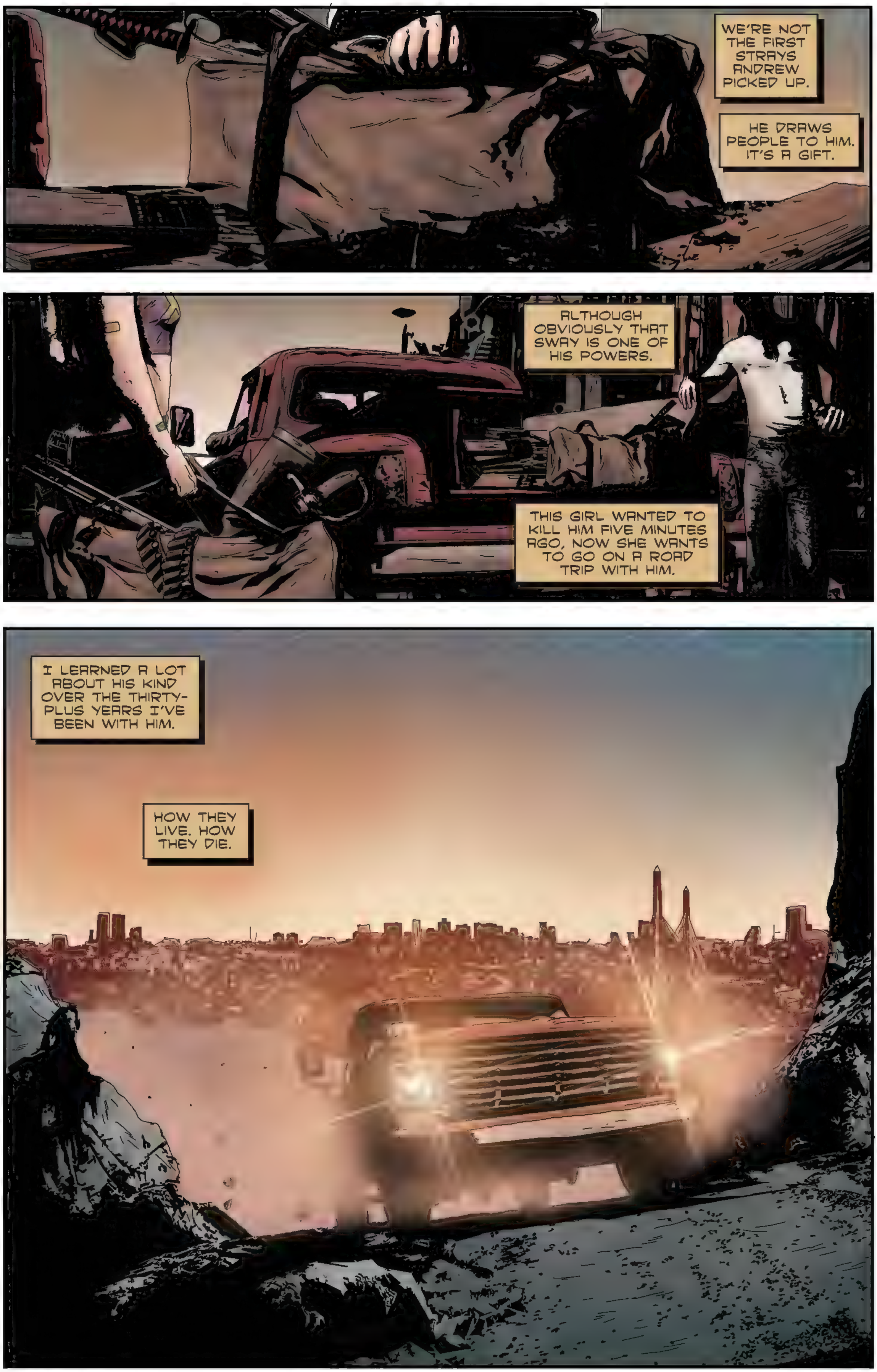
SEE YOU IN HELL, LOVER

SO A ROAD TRIP THEN?

I SUPPOSE SO.

I ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO GOTHAM.

WHAT?


WE'RE NOT THE FIRST STRAYS ANDREW PICKED UP.
HE DRAWS PEOPLE TO HIM. IT'S A GIFT.
ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY THAT SWAY IS ONE OF HIS POWERS.
THIS GIRL WANTED TO KILL HIM FIVE MINUTES AGO, NOW SHE WANTS TO GO ON A ROAD TRIP WITH HIM.
I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT HIS KIND OVER THE THIRTY-PLUS YEARS I'VE BEEN WITH HIM.
HOW THEY LIVE. HOW THEY DIE.

I ALSO LEARNED THINGS ON MY OWN.

THROUGH RESEARCH AND STUDY...THINGS THAT I KEEP TO MYSELF.

LIKE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A VAMPIRE LIVES TO BE MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

HOW THE ONLY THING THAT CAN DESTROY A VAMPIRE THAT OLD IS FOR IT TO WILLINGLY CHOOSE TO DIE.

OR FOR THE VAMPIRE'S SIRE TO WILLINGLY DIE FIRST.

I TRY NOT TO ASK MYSELF IF HE KNOWS THAT HE COULD END IT ALL, IF ONLY HE COULD TURN THE STAKE ON HIMSELF.

ANDREW BENNETT IS MY BEST FRIEND.

WELCOME TO
GOTHAM CITY

BUT IF IT WILL DESTROY THE VAMPIRES, I WILL KILL HIM.

JUST PRAY HE HAS THE STRENGTH NOT TO LET IT COME TO THAT.

cover art by
JENNY FRISON

OUTSIDE COLUMBUS, OHIO.

"I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD--"

"YOU'RE CLEARLY EXHAUSTED, JOHN, AND I NEED TO FIND SOMETHING TO EAT."

SOMEONE.

TIG, I TOLD YOU ALREADY--

YEAH, ANDREW BENNETT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

"THE HUNGER DOESN'T DRIVE ME."

GET SOME SHUTEYE, I'LL BE BACK BEFORE SUNRISE.

WAKE ME WHENEVER YOU'RE READY TO GO.

=YAWN=

ALWAYS VIGILANT, OLD FRIEND.

ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH...

TAXI

GOTHAM TAXI 03421

FIRST AID

WHAT'S ON THE MENU TONIGHT, FRIEND?

OH GOD!!

YOU GOT THE WRONG IDEA, MISTER.

IT'S OKAY, I'M LIKE YOU.

I NEVER MET ANOTHER ONE.
OTHER THAN THE ONES WHO TURNED ME.
THERE'S PLENTY. MORE THAN YOU COULD IMAGINE.
AND THE HUNGER?
OH, I PRETTY MUCH NEVER HAVE...
A FEW ANIMALS AND THE BOTTLED KIND.
YOU?
YEAH, ME TOO. I MEAN, I'VE BARELY GOT TEN YEARS IN, BUT NO MATTER HOW HUNGRY I GET, THERE'S SOMETHING INSIDE ME...
FEED? NO. NEVER.
I USED TO HUNGER. I USED TO GO MAD IF I DIDN'T DRINK, BUT... I'VE MELLOWED IN MY OLD AGE.
I CAN'T LET THE MONSTER OUT. EVER. I'M SCARED THAT...
...
SCARED THAT WHAT, STEVE?
WHEN I WAS FIRST CHANGED...I ALMOST KILLED SOMEONE I LOVED...
AFTER THAT... I JUST...IF I FELT THAT POWER AGAIN...
I DON'T THINK I CAN CONTROL IT...

LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

HOLY GOD!

YOU TRY IT.

GRRRR...

THIS ISN'T...

GRRRRRAAAAA!

YOU HAVE THE WILLPOWER TO DO THAT.

YOU HAVE THE WILLPOWER TO DO ANYTHING.

REMEMBER

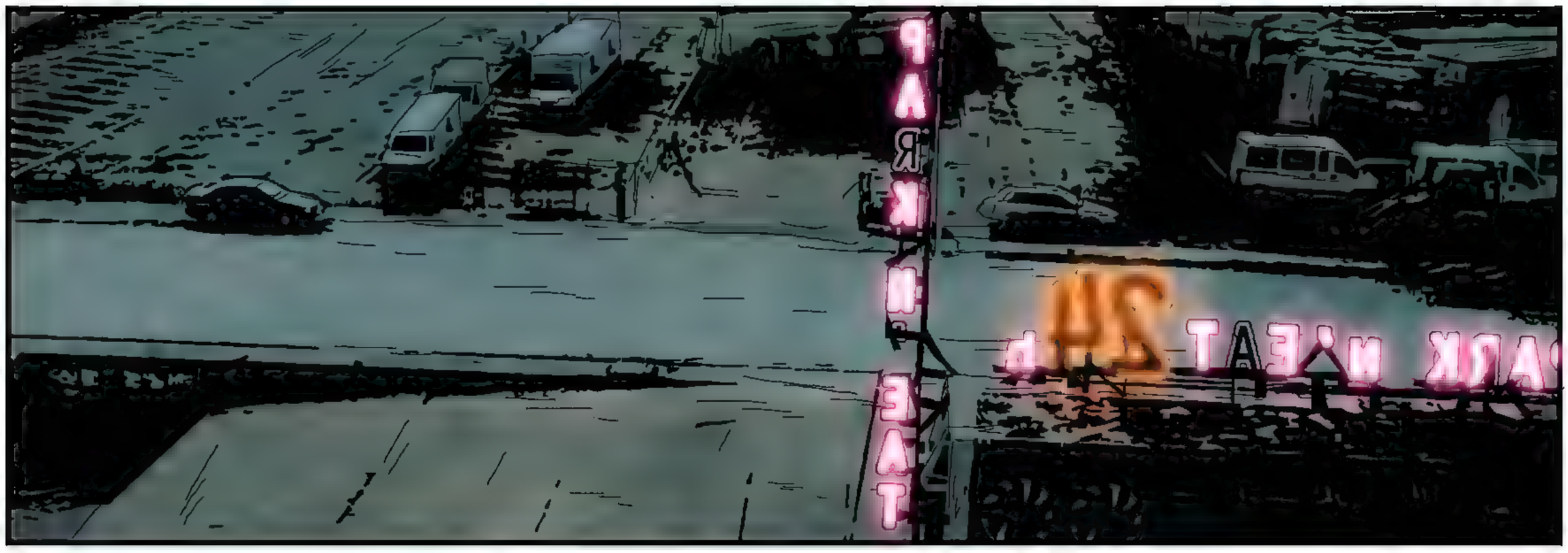
WE'RE NOT ANIMALS, AND WE DON'T HAVE TO ACT LIKE THEM.

BE WELL.

SO STRONG
OH GOD... IT FEELS SO GOOD...

YAAAAAH!

HEHEHEHEHE HEHEHEHEHEHE...


YOU CAN'T DO THAT IN HERE, SON.
CAN'T DO WHAT, LOVE?
SMOKE. AIN'T ALLOWED IN RESTAURANTS.
WHERE I COME FROM, THIS HARDLY QUALIFIES AS A RESTAURANT, SO WE'RE OKAY, YEH?

OPEN
FLIPPIN' AMERICA.
TRUCKERS WELCOME

BLOODY VAMPIRES. ALWAYS MISTING ABOUT.
=SIGH=

OY! WATCH IT!

BANG!
WHAT THE HELL?

NOW YOU DIE, ONE BY ONE, YOUR BLOOD ON MY LIPS!

GOTHAM

GOTHAM

GOTHAM

C'MON, BOYO.

LET'S TAKE IT DOWN A FEW NOTCHES AND HAVE A TALK, YES?

HOW DID YOU GET IN?

LET'S CALL IT... MAGIC.

EVERYONE WHO'S NOT A BLOODSUCKING FIEND MIGHT WANT TO GET LOST.

NOW, WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE, IT'S MAGIC, TOO.

A LITTLE BIT OF OLD CELTIC MIXED WITH SOME OF THE NATIVE PEOPLE OF AMERICA.

A

GAAAH!

AND SEEING AS HOW THIS *IS* AMERICA, I'M SURE THERE'S A SHOTGUN SOMEWHERE--

PERFECT.

NOW, YOU'RE A VAMPIRE, AND THE WEE SUN I MADE HAS DRAINED MOST OF YOUR POWERS AWAY...

TRADITIONALLY IT'S A STAKE IN THE HEART AND CHOP CHOP WIT' THE HEAD...

BUT THIS'LL DO IN A PINCH.

WHEN YOU GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING, TELL 'EM THEIR OLD PAL JOHN CONSTANTINE SAID "HI."

I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT.

AH, MISTY-MISTER.

LOOK, MATE, I'LL JUST DO YOUR FRIEND HERE, AND THEN I CAN PROBABLY FIT YOU IN.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU--
GAH!
THANK YOU...
OH GOD... THANK YOU...

I'M SORRY, STEVE.

I...

I DIDN'T THINK. WHEN I SHOWED YOU WHAT YOU COULD DO, I THOUGHT...

SOME OF US ARE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE URGES. SOME OF US ARE STRONG ENOUGH.

THERE WERE SOME VAMPIRE MONKS I MET ONCE...

I...I'M STRONG ENOUGH.

NO, YOU'RE NOT.

PLEASE...I HAVE A WIFE AND DAUGHTER OUT THERE... SOMEWHERE.

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ME.

IF YOU EVER MEET HER, OR SEE HER...

SHHLNK

TELL HER I WAS A GOOD MAN.

GIVE HER THIS.

VAMPIRE WHO KILLS VAMPIRES, HUH?

AND YOU'RE JOHN CONSTANTINE, THE SO-CALLED *HELLBLAZER,* YES?

THERE'S A WAR COMING.

A VAMPIRE WHO CALLS HERSELF THE QUEEN OF BLOOD IS RAISING AN ARMY.

THE MASS ATTACKS AROUND THE COUNTRY YESTERDAY, THEY WERE JUST THE BEGINNING.

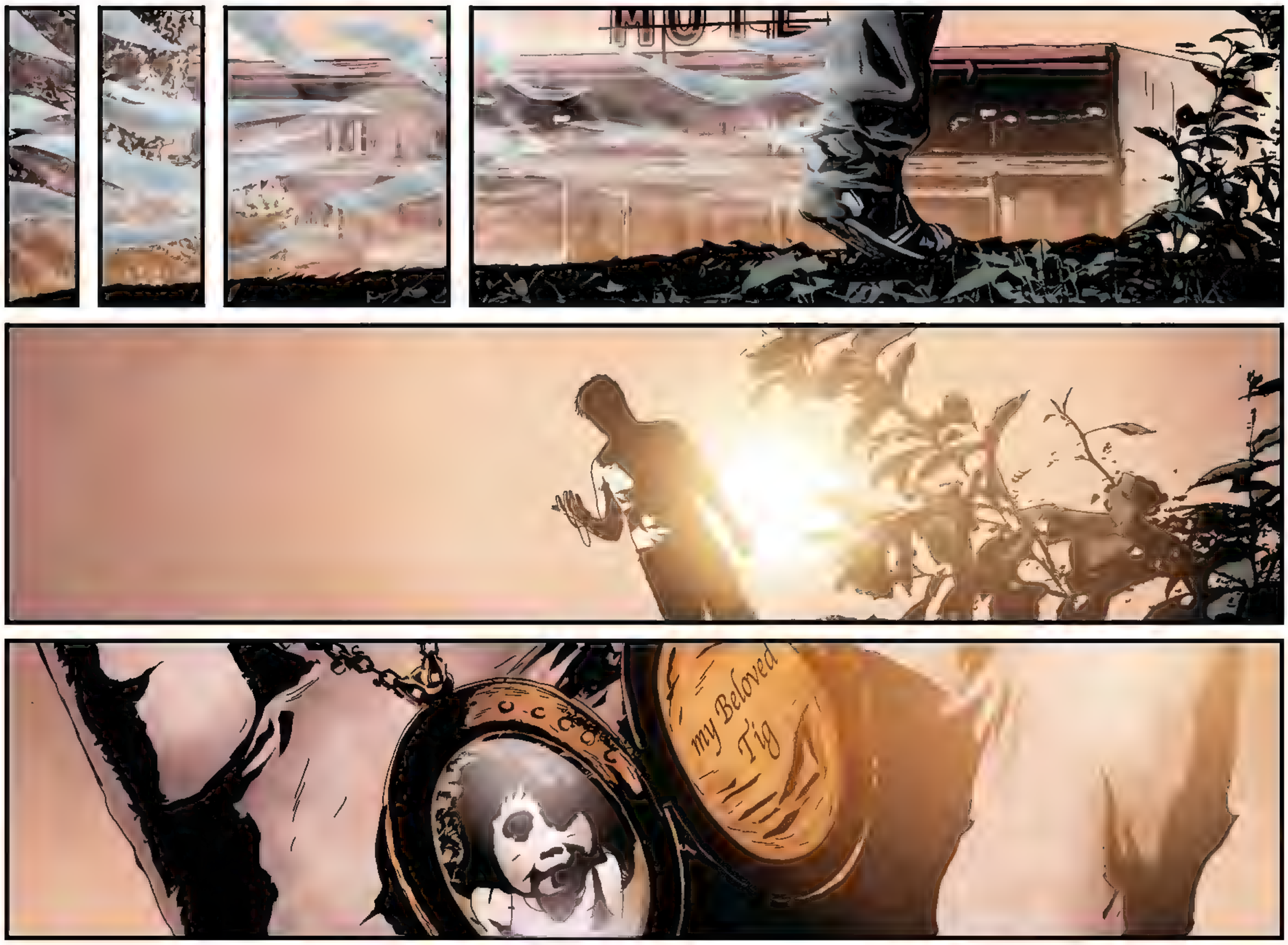
I'M GOING TO STOP HER.

BUT IN CASE I DON'T...

TELL ALL OF YOUR LITTLE WIZARD AND WARLOCK FRIENDS TO BE READY.

SIMPLE PARLOR TRICKS WON'T WORK ON HER AND HERS.

GOD, I HATE SISSY-BOY VAMPIRES.


my Beloved
Tig

OH GOD... TIG...

cover art by
JENNY FRISON

GOTHAM CITY.

Fear.

Everyone thinks they've been afraid.

Everyone thinks they know what it feels like.

Life flashing before your eyes, all of that.

That's bull.

What happens is you go numb.

You slow down, you lose control--

--you become a shell with a tiny little "you" crammed somewhere inside watching.

I...

PLEASE, YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING...

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN--

My father was turned into a vampire when I was six years old.

He tried to eat me.

HEY! LERVE HER ALONE!

My mom managed to stop him.

Barely.

RUN, LADY!

You want to talk about fear?

How about finally finding some people who believe you, who want to help you...

But one of them, oh, yeah, he's a **vampire.**

A filthy, evil beast.

STAND DOWN!

I WILL SHOOT!

I SAID STAND DOWN!

Cute, though.

I kept this journal when I was just a dumb kid.

I spent the bulk of it bitching about my parents.

SERGEANT, I'D LIKE TO BOOK THESE MEN FOR ASSAULT.

YOU... ARRESTED *ALL* OF THEM?

THEY CAME QUIETLY.

HEH.

Now, it's the only thing that I have of them.

HEHEHEHEHEHEHEHEHEHE!

So yeah, I'm not scared anymore.

I've already lost everything there is to lose.

"WHAT ARE YOU WRITING THERE?

"A JOURNAL?"

I KEPT ONE OF THOSE. I THOUGHT THAT I'D LEARN SOMETHING IF I KEPT TRACK OF ALL THE SIGHTINGS AND FIGHTS AND...

I LEARNED THAT THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, THE LESS I COULD DO.

IT PARALYZED ME TO REALIZE WHAT I'D DONE, AND THAT IT WAS GETTING WORSE.

STOP SCARING THE KID.

OH, NOW *I'M* THE ONE SCARING HER. RIGHT.

JEHOVA!

NO...

GCPD

GCPD

GCPD

GCPD

WEE-OOO WEE-OOO

...MARY.

SKREEEEE!

TRAIN 1085 FROM BOSTON ARRIVED AS USUAL TODAY, BUT WHAT THEY FOUND INSIDE ONCE IT GOT THERE WAS ANYTHING BUT...

SECURITY CAMERAS PICKED UP HORRIFIC VIOLENCE, BUT NO ATTACKERS. MUCH LIKE THE TERRIFYIING VIOLENCE OF TWO DAYS AGO IN BOSTON, STAR CITY, LOS ANGELES, AND...

I'M TELLING YOU, MAN, THIS AIN'T NATURAL.

OH COME ON, LOU--

I'M SERIOUS, MAN. I HEARD IT WAS SOME SORT OF VAMPIRE CULT.

VAMPIRES? SERIOUSLY, LOU?

YOU'RE A MORON.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET THESE PEOPLE MOVED BACK!

C'MON!

STAY HERE. I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK.

DOES THAT GET LESS CREEPY?

NO. NO, IT DOESN'T.

LOOK, I KNOW THIS IS A BIT MUCH FOR YOU--

NO, IT'S NOT.

HE'S A GOOD MAN.

HE'S NOT A MAN AT ALL.

HE IS, THOUGH. I MEAN, THAT'S WHAT'S SO HARD FOR HIM...HE'S GOT A FOOT ON BOTH SIDES--

AS LONG AS ONE OF THOSE FEET SHOULD BE ROTTING IN THE DIRT, HE'S NOT A MAN.

"WHEN IT'S HIS TIME, I'M GOING TO CUT HIS HEAD OFF.

"AND LIKE IT."

GAH!

WHO ARE YOU?

AND WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO TO THE PEOPLE ON THIS TRAIN?

JUST HOLD ON, I CAN EXPLAIN--

CLONK

TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE!

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.

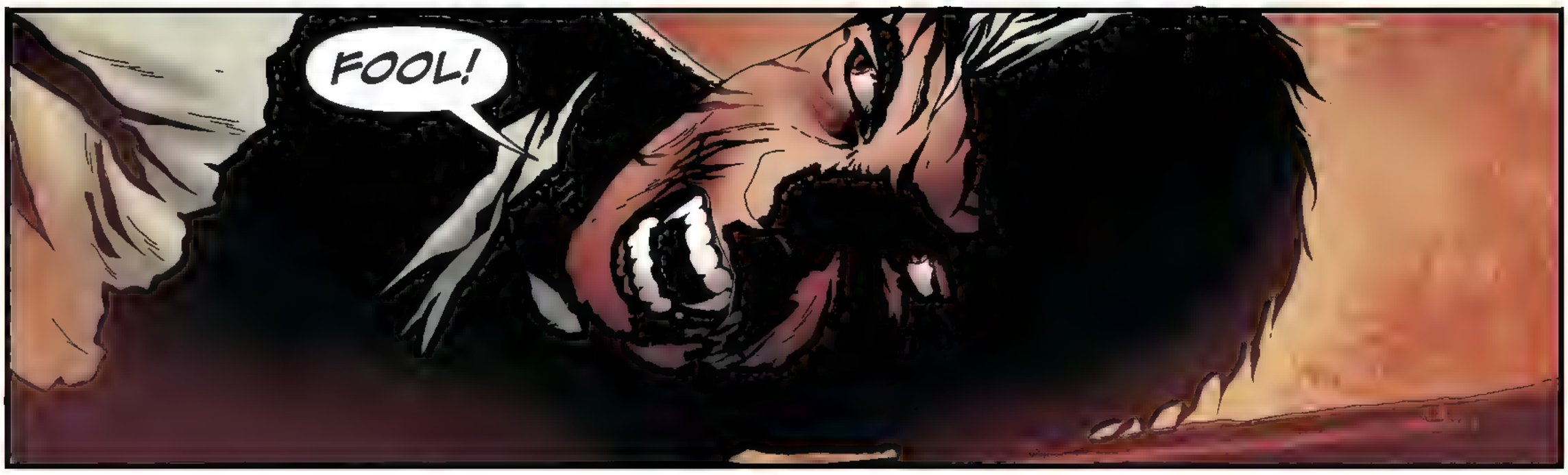
FWASH

DAMMIT!

HOW DID YOU DO THIS?

WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE FROM THE TRAIN?

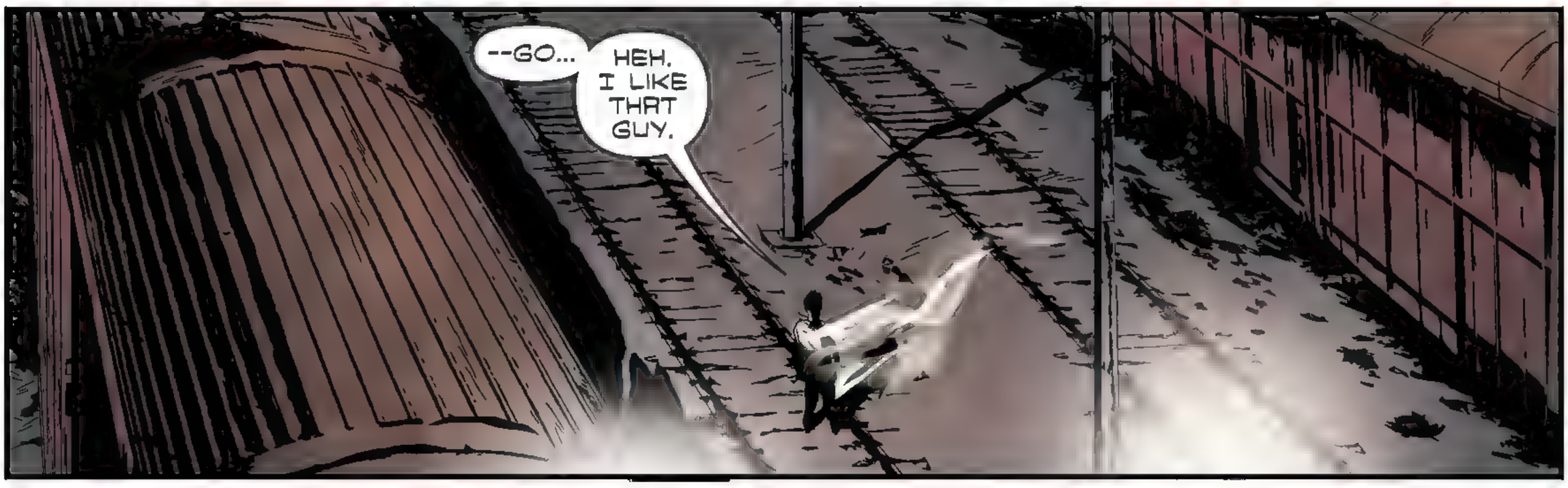
...WHAT *ARE* YOU?!


FOOL!

GAH!
NO WONDER THEY HATE HUMANS. SO PIGHEADED.

AS A MAN OF HONOR, I SWEAR TO YOU I DIDN'T HURT ANYONE.
BUT I KNOW WHO DID.
LET ME HELP--

HEY! THERE'S SOMEONE DOWN HERE!
WE HAVE TO--


--GO...
HEH. I LIKE THAT GUY.

SIR, I'M SORRY, WE CAN'T GIVE OUT--

BUT THE WHOLE TRAIN JUST...GONE? NO BODIES, JUST BLOOD?

EVEN THE CONDUCTOR! THE TRAIN PULLED INTO THE STATION, AND NOBODY WAS THERE.

WE CAN'T TALK TO THEM--

WE'RE SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU, OFFICERS.

WHA--?

WHAT HAPPENED?

I MADE A NEW FRIEND.

GREAT.

YOU'LL LIKE THIS ONE. HE TRIED TO KILL ME.

ALFRED, SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND ON THESE...

PEOPLE.

RIGHT AWAY, SIR.

Andrew claims he has a psychic bond with Mary, the so-called "Queen of Blood." He can sense her movements.

AM COURT HOUSE

And he claims that she's here.

But if they're planning on taking over a public building to make a statement...

Why pick one that's about to be empty?

SORRY, FOLKS, WE'RE CLOSED.

WE OPEN TOMORROW MORNING... AT...

YOU CAN GO TAKE A WALK, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PLACE FOR YOU.

YEP. ALL GOOD.

OKAY, THAT'S AWESOME.

I KNOW, RIGHT?

I DON'T GET IT. THIS PLACE IS EMPTY.

EXACTLY. THEY'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A FEW HUNDRED NEW CONVERTS WAKE UP, WHAT BETTER PLACE?

BUT THERE'D BE CHAOS... VAMPIRES PANIC WHEN THEY FIRST WAKE UP, THEY'D HAVE TO CONTAIN THEM--

MY GOD. *THE CELLS.*

I DON'T--

BACK IN THE OLD DAYS, COURTHOUSES WERE ALSO THE JAILS.

NOW THE CELLS ARE USED FOR THE DAY'S HOLDING OR FOR CRIMINALS WHO HAVEN'T BEEN CHARGED YET.

PLUS, WHEN THE SUN COMES UP, MOST OF THE WINDOWS ARE SHADED OUT.

THIS PLACE IS THEIR BARRACKS.

AND HOW IS IT YOU KNOW THAT, MR. BENNETT?

I DON'T BELIEVE IN KILLING.

BUT CONSIDERING THE EVIDENCE, YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN DEAD A LONG TIME GO.

SO AGAIN I ASK...

WHAT. ARE. YOU?

HOLD ON A SECOND, SON, THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK--

IT'S OKAY, JOHN, EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL HERE.

LIKE HELL!

HE'S A VAMPIRE!

HE'S IN LOVE WITH THE ONE THAT DID ALL OF THIS.

KILL HIM.

BETTER YET, LET *ME.*

NOW HOLD ON A MINUTE...

YOU'RE IN HIS THRALL, PROFESSOR. I KNOW YOU WERE A GOOD MAN ONCE, BEFORE HE TURNED YOU INTO HIS...

HECUBUS.

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE GREAT DETECTIVE!

SO? DETECT!

HE'S A VAMPIRE. HIS NAME APPEARS THROUGHOUT THE PUBLIC RECORDS...

I'VE SEEN SKETCHES THAT DATE BACK TO THE RENAISSANCE, AND CLOTHING ASIDE, HE HASN'T AGED A DAY--

NO. WHAT I MEAN IS IF HE'S A MONSTER, THEN...

WHY HASN'T HE KILLED YOU YET?

I AM NOT WHAT I SEEM TO BE. I SWEAR TO YOU.

YOU'RE STILL A MONSTER.

I'VE HEARD THE SAME ABOUT YOU.

FINE. WE WORK TOGETHER.

FOR *NOW.*

THE PAST DAY AND A HALF, DOZENS OF PEOPLE HAVE GONE MISSING.

THAT'S GOOD.

WHAT?

WE STILL HAVE TIME.

TIME? WHAT--

THE FIRST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, THE CHANGE CAN BE REVERSED...

AFTER THAT...

WELL, THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

TIG, YOU THINK YOU CAN HOLD OFF ON TRYING TO KILL ME FOR A FEW MINUTES WHILE WE FIGHT THE ACTUAL BAD GUYS?

As my mom died, she told me to run. She told me she'd be okay, and I had to run.

And I did.

I LIKE YOUR CAPE.

...

When I close my eyes, I hear her screams as they ripped her limb from limb.

I tell myself that it was a blessing, because she couldn't come back.

We killed so many searching for my dad that they despised us.

So much that they wouldn't dare turn us.

Flattering, right?

CLANG

And trust me, the feeling is mutual.

BACK!

OUT OF MY WAY, BENNETT!

NO!

STOP!

ANDREW, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY NEW FAMILY.

ALL RIGHT, KIDS! LET'S WELCOME DADDY HOME!

MOTOLA

SORRENTINO·11

cover art by

ANDREA SORRENTINO & MARCELO MAIOLO

GOTHAM CITY COURTHOUSE

I WATCH THEM FIGHT, TIG, JOHN... MY COMPANIONS

THE BATMAN.

AND I WONDER WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE.

TO BE SO CLEAR MINDED. TO BE SO SURE OF PURPOSE.

RIGHT AND WRONG.

MUST BE NICE.

MY NAME IS ANDREW BENNETT.

I'M HERE TO KILL THE WOMAN I LOVE.

AGAIN.

HOW DO WE STOP THEM?

THE BATMAN—VIGILANTE—GOOD

STAKE THEM AND CUT OFF THEIR HEADS!

TIG RAFELSON—VAMPIRE HUNTER AND BORDERLINE PSYCHOTIC—???

VAMPIRIC HORDE—MURDERY JERKS—EVIL

NO! SOME OF THEM CAN BE SAVED!

PROFESSOR JOHN TROUGHTON—VAMPIRE HUNTER—FORMER BON VIVANT—GOOD

DAMMIT, TIG, CALM DOWN!

ANDREW BENNETT—SIX-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD VAMPIRE—GOOD

IT'S THEM OR US!

NO!

DAMMIT.

NO. THEY'RE NOT DEAD YET.

YOU KILL THEIR SIRE, AND THEY'RE CURED.

WAIT, WHAT DID YOU SAY?

MARY! CALL THEM OFF!

MARY, QUEEN OF BLOOD--
VAMPIRE QUEEN, EX-GIRLFRIEND--
WAY EVIL

I TOLD YOU, ANDREW! THIS IS IT, WE'RE DONE TALKING.

AND I SHOULD REALLY THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME THE BATMAN TO PLAY WITH.

HE'S GOING TO MAKE AN *EXCELLENT* KING.

BENNETT! WE HAVE TO FALL BACK!

NOW!

HE'S IN HERE, I KNOW IT.

HE WHO?

THE SIRE. THESE AREN'T MARY'S CHILDREN.

JUST HOLD OUT A LITTLE LONGER, EVERYBODY.

EASIER SAID THAN DONE, ANDREW!

I CAN SENSE... HIM...

THERE.

WE'VE GOT TO KILL THAT BOY IN ORDER TO SET THEM ALL FREE!

NO!

GAH!

THUD!

HEY! GET BACK HERE!

LIKE

HELL,

TRAITOR!

I THINK ABOUT THE NIGHT I WAS TURNED...

...AND THE NIGHT I TURNED HER...

...CONSTANTLY.

HOW THE CHANGE UNLOCKED STRENGTH AND COMPASSION AND POWER IN ME...

...BUT UNLOCKED HATRED AND BILE AND EVIL IN HER.

WHAT DOES THAT SAY ABOUT THE WOMAN I LOVE?

LOVED.

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT THIS THING DID TO YOU.

BUT I'M ABOUT TO SET IT RIGHT.

BACK!

TO!

HELL!

WHERE... WHERE AM I...?

RAAAAAH!

KILL THEM ALL!

HUH?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE REST ARE FULL-BLOODS! THEY CAN'T BE SAVED!

KILL THEM ALL!

GET THE HUMANS OUT OF HERE. LEAVE THE REST TO ME AND YOUR BOSS.

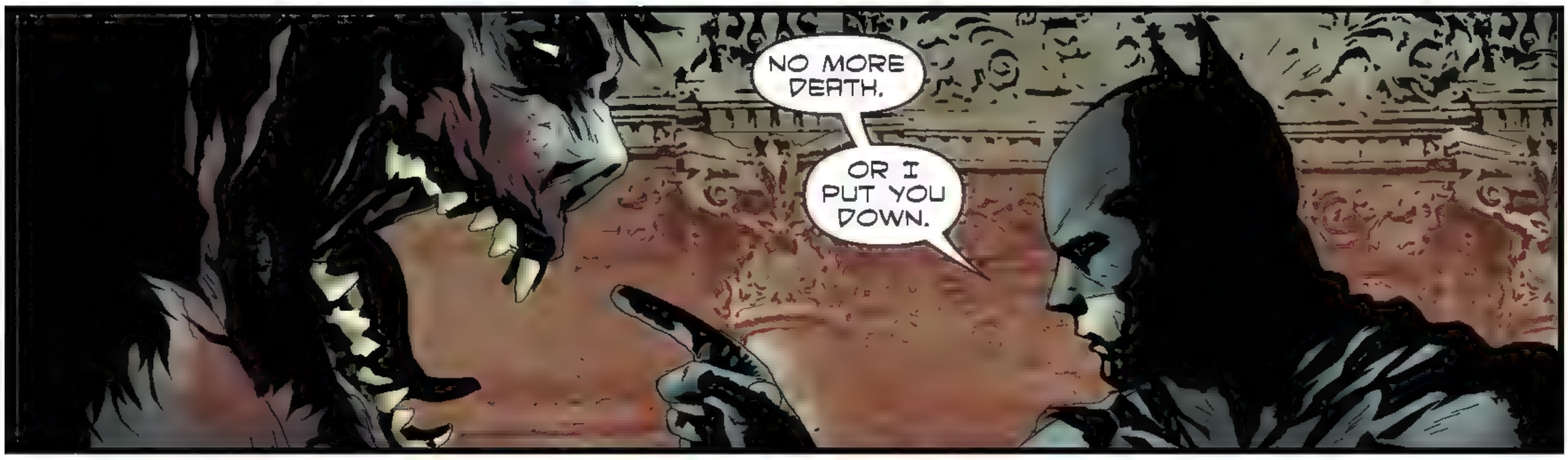
HE'S NOT MY--

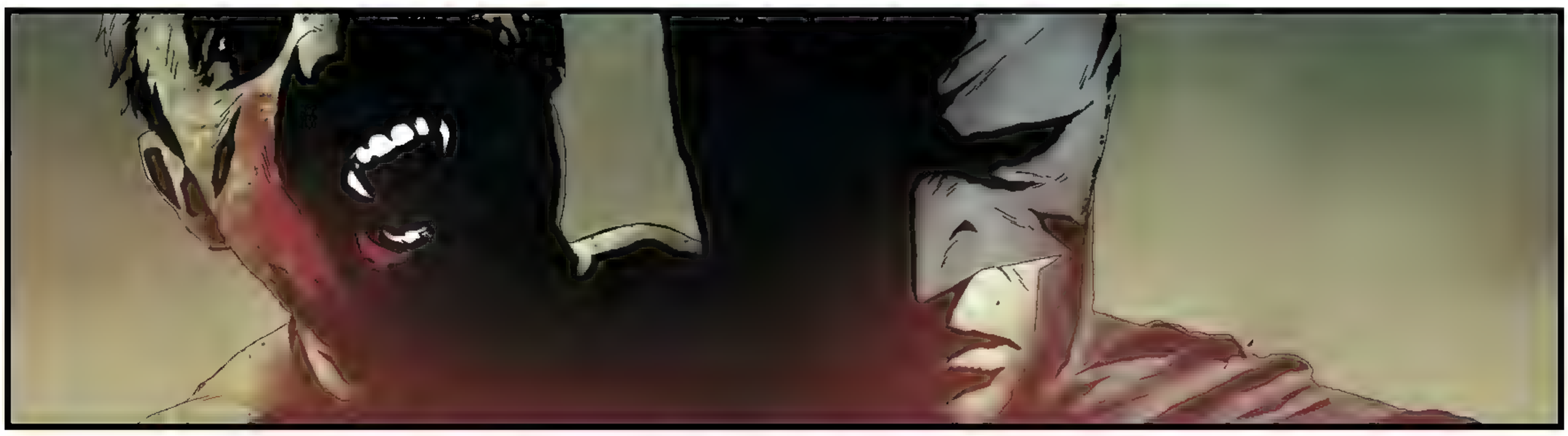
QUIET, GIRL.

BATMAN, THEY CAN'T BE SAVED.

EVERYONE CAN BE SAVED.

NO MORE KILLING!
THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD!


NO MORE DEATH.
OR I PUT YOU DOWN.



DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, HOW ARE THEY... BETTER?

IF YOU KILL THE SIRE, THE CURSE IS LIFTED.

OH MY GOD.

WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING--?

IT ONLY WORKS IF THE SIRE'S KILLED IN THE FIRST 72 HOURS!

AFTER THAT, THEY'RE FULL-BLOODS!

THEY *MUST* DIE.

NO. KILLING.

YOU SEE, ANDREW? EVEN BATMAN UNDERSTANDS. WE'RE OPPRESSED--

NO. YOU'RE CRIMINALS. YOU DESERVE JUSTICE.

HAHAHA HAHAHAHAHAHA HAHAHA!

OH GOD, THAT'S AMAZING.

GO ON, THEN.

ARREST ME.

CUTE.

AS I'M SURE YOU CAN TURN TO FOG LIKE YOUR BOYFRIEND HERE, I KNOW WE CAN'T CONTAIN YOU...

SO I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO--

WHAT? KILL ME?

NO. SUBDUE YOU--

THEN I'LL LET ZATANNA SORT THIS OUT.

WHAT THE HE--

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

HAHAHA HAHAHAHAHAHA HAHAHA!

THAT TICKLES!

NO, CHILDREN, HE'S MINE.

THIS ENDS NOW, MY LOVES.

YES. YES IT DOES.

I'M SO SORRY.

THERE HAS TO BE SOME OTHER WAY, BENNETT--

NO WAY...

...BUT DEATH.

OH...OH GOD...

SHRAKK

THIS IS TOO RICH.

I'M SORRY, ANDREW. I REALLY AM.

YOU SEEM LIKE MAYBE YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD ONES. LIKE MAYBE YOU'RE NOT A MURDERING MONSTER.

BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE REALLY OLD. AND YOU SIRED *HER.*

HA! HILARIOUS!

NO, TIG... YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I UNDERSTAND THAT I DON'T GET MY FAMILY BACK.

BUT HUNDREDS... THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DO.

GOODBYE, ANDREW.

PURPOSE. A REASON TO LIVE.

JUST MY LUCK THAT WHEN I'M SITTING HERE WITH A SWORD THROUGH MY HEART COURTESY OF A CRAZED TEENAGE GIRL, I'D FIGURE IT OUT.

THAT NOW, FACING MARY, WITH MY HEAD CUT OFF, FEELING THE SECONDS TICK AWAY, I'D KNOW

I'M NOT HERE TO STOP MARY.

MY PURPOSE IS TO WIPE ALL VAMPIRES OFF THE FACE OF THE PLANET.

MY PURPOSE IS TO MAKE THE WORLD A SAFE PLACE--

--AND ERADICATE A PLAGUE THAT I'M AT LEAST SEMI-RESPONSIBLE FOR SPREADING.

THE LAST WORDS I'LL EVER THINK...

THE THING THAT ECHOES THROUGH MY VERY SOUL AS I'M SWALLOWED UP IN THE ABYSS...

"YOU'RE TOO LATE, ANDREW BENNETT."

THE END HAS COME!

THE SLEEPER HAS AWOKEN!

THE VAMPIRES-- THEY'RE ALL SCREAMING--!

XANADU!

SOMETHING'S HURTING HER.

ELSEWHERE...

IT'S BEGUN.

ANDREW BENNETT...IS DEAD...

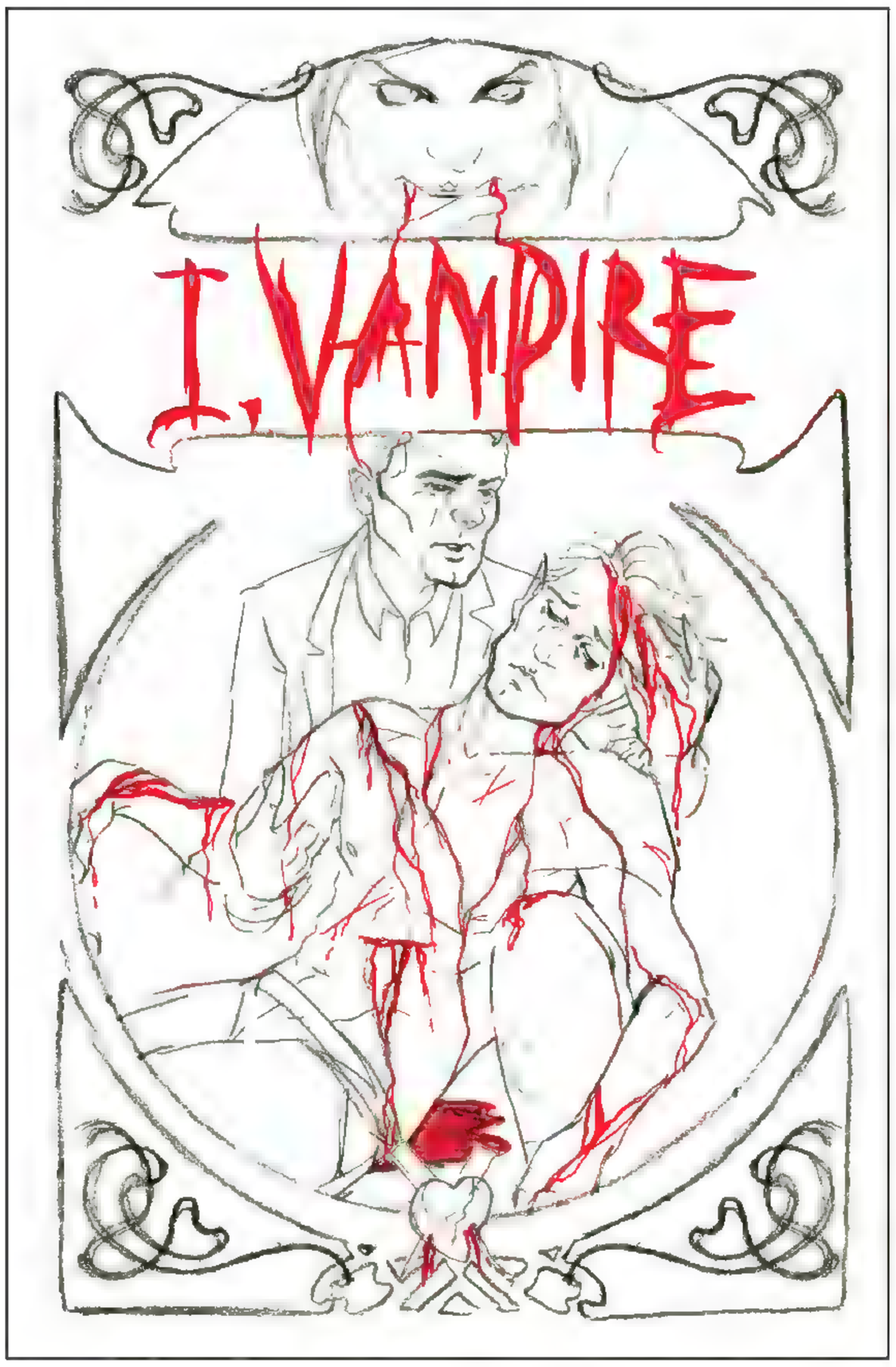
CAIN, THE SIRE OF THEM ALL...HAS ARISEN...

I, VAMPIRE
CHARACTER SKETCHES BY JIM LEE

I, VAMPIRE

HALF-WOLF CHARACTER SKETCH BY ANDREA SORRENTINO

I, VAMPIRE
COVER SKETCHES BY JENNY FRISON


I, VAMPIRE

I, VAMPIRE

UNUSED COVER ART BY JENNY FRISON

"Grade A+. The first issue is a perfect blend of backstory and present-day action and would be a satisfying one-shot. But knowing that there will be more issues of DC's best horror book of the New 52 makes it all the sweeter."

— *USA TODAY*

THE WAR OF THE VAMPIRES BEGINS

For hundreds of years, vampire Andrew Bennett kept mankind safe from the horrors of the supernatural world, thanks to a truce he made with his ex-lover Mary, the Queen of Blood. But now the truce has reached a bloody end and Andrew must do everything in his power to stop Mary and her dark forces from wreaking havoc on an unwitting human populace.

Soon enough, across the country, bodies litter the streets as the fiending vampiresse builds her army. A weakened Andrew must seek the aid of unusual allies — John Constantine, Hellblazer, as well as The Dark Knight himself — to take down the bloodthirsty Mary. But can he really trust them...and does he truly believe he has the power to stop the Queen of Blood?

I, VAMPIRE: TAINTED LOVE, collecting issues #1-6, features the arresting art of ANDREA SORRENTINO (*God of War*) and the riveting words of JOSHUA HALE FIALKOV (*Echoes*).

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"